

NRCS Tennessee AT-A-GLANCE

FY 2019 Conservation... By the Numbers

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture provided **\$4.2 million** from the Agricultural Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF) for installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs).

NRCS provided technical assistance in planning, engineering or agronomic design and layout, and inspection of these **2,109** BMPs.

- 17,412 customers assisted
- 51,727 conservation practices planned, 32,225 implemented, and nearly 22,000 certified
- 3,495 conservation plans written on 286,136 acres
- 5,544 conservation plans applied on 440,942 acres
- 791 contracts totaling \$18.4 million in 53 StrikeForce counties in Tennessee
- 201,887 acres of practices applied in Conservation Technical Assistance to improve environmental quality
- 38 percent of EQIP funding and 20 percent of CSP funding obligated to contracts with Beginning Farmers
- \$19 million obligated to livestock contracts, putting TN at 66 percent (16 percent above nation's 50 percent)
- 165,777 EQIP cropland acres to improve Soil Health
- 12 ACEP-WRE easements closed for a total of 1,520 acres
- Funded \$1.1 million through EQIP Disaster program
- \$4.7 million expended in Emergency Watershed Protection Program funds for erosion control and debris removal caused by floods or tornadoes

NRCS greatly appreciates our partnerships with the 95 Soil Conservation Districts in Tennessee, Tennessee's Association of Conservation Districts (TACD), Department of Agriculture (TDA), Conservation District Employees Association (TCDEA), Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D), and many others. Without them, we would not be able to reach our farmers and landowners to implement conservation systems through our voluntary programs on private lands in the state.

FY 2019 Accomplishments

Tennessee Soil Health

Tennessee is leading the way in the Southeast Region in soil health with cover crops being the most applied practice across its landscape. Through our strong partnerships and through implementation of numerous contribution agreements, more than 112,000 acres of cover crop have been applied across the state in fiscal year (FY) 2019.



Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee Leadership Development Program is Underway

In FY 2019, Tennessee spearheaded the Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee Southeast Leadership Development Program to provide tri-state leadership training to NRCS employees. This 18-month program is intended to grow future leaders in the agency. A total of 19 employees among the three states were selected to participate in the training program, with seven of them being from Tennessee. The program will officially begin in March 2020.

Earth Team Volunteer Program

For two years in a row, Tennessee NRCS Earth Team Volunteers have received national recognition for their volunteer hours in helping private landowners protect and enhance natural resources and put conservation on the ground. In FY 2019, **Adam Daugherty**, District Conservationist in Manchester, and the **Lauderdale County Soil Conservation District Junior Board** received the prestigious National Earth Team Volunteer Employee and Group Awards, respectively. They were also awarded at the local level alongside: **Diane Major** (Individual Volunteer Award), **Robertson County Soil Conservation District** (Partnership-NACD Volunteer Award), **Cumberland County Community Complex** (Partnership Volunteer Award), and **Morristown Service Center** (Office Volunteer Award).



Program Highlights - FY 2019

Last year, approximately **\$58.9 million** was obligated in Farm Bill funding and **\$27.6 million** in technical assistance to help Tennessee land users, units of local and state government, communities, and other Federal agencies with planning and implementing conservation systems.

| Farm Bill Program | Obligated Funds | Number of Contracts | Total Acres |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) | \$33.9M | 1,439 | 158,297 |
| Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) | \$12.1M | 168 in CSP General and 452 in CSP Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI) | 65,479 in CSP General and 15,299 in CSP GCI |
| Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) | \$269,023 in Technical Assistance | 43 | 9,861 |
| Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) | \$11.1M | 1 new ALE agreement and 9 new WRE agreements | 3,005 |

¹Amount obligated for new FY2019 contracts and does not account for prior year promoted contracts.



Our Mission

We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.

Our Vision

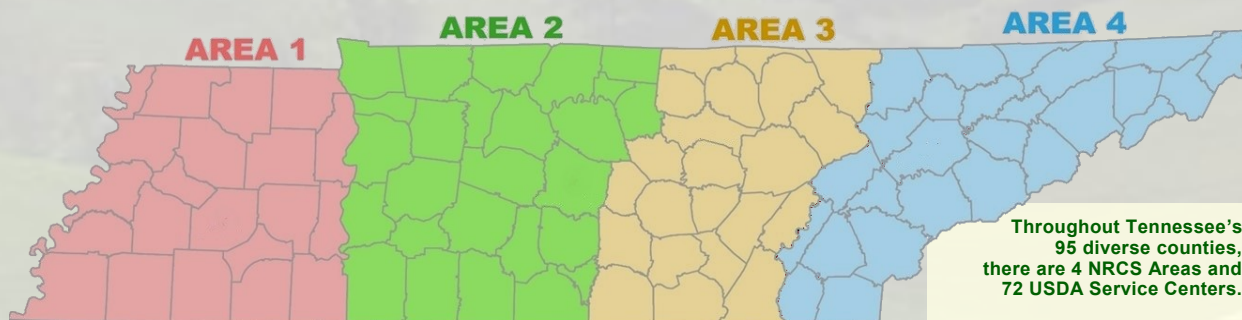
A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

Visit our website at: www.tn.nrcs.usda.gov



Helping People Help the Land

Tennessee State Map (NRCS Area Boundaries)



NRCS — Who We Are...What We Do

Simply put—NRCS in Tennessee helps American farmers make conservation work for them through its science-based conservation planning and implementation. The system of practices we promote helps farmers improve production, reduce input costs, and conserve natural resources for the future. We also provide financial resources to help with the costs involved with getting conservation on the ground and improving soil health, water and air quality, and other natural resource benefits.

As of January 2020, there were **181 NRCS employees** working in Tennessee throughout **72 USDA Service Centers** in the state. In FY 2019, NRCS partnerships included **10 active contribution, cooperative and grant agreements totaling \$2.8 million** that supported **62 field positions**. Our Earth Team Volunteers were also instrumental in helping us put conservation on the ground. Last year, **13,768 volunteers donated 62,000 hours** to help Tennessee NRCS lead the nation in its volunteer efforts and meet its mission of helping people help the land. These volunteer contributions earned Tennessee national recognition in the National Earth Team Volunteer Program for two straight years. FY 2019 volunteer hours were **valued at \$1.3 million**.

NRCS is helping to ensure the health of our natural resources and the long-term sustainability of American agriculture. Our **Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)** program is the foundation of our financial and technical assistance delivery system. It provides land users with proven conservation technology needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. According to numerous agricultural resources, Tennessee has roughly **26 million acres** of land, of which **89 percent** is privately owned. Furthermore, **11 million acres—or 41 percent—are farmlands**.

Soil



About Our Programs...

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to eligible producers to help install or implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

Water



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns.

Air



Plants



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - This program provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. ACEP contains an Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and a Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component.

Animals



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - RCPP is merit-based and targets specific vulnerable areas and is administered through partnership agreements and through program contracts or easement agreements.

Tennessee Goals FY 2020

Implement 2018 Farm Bill



Increase participation in Local Work Groups and State Technical Committee meetings



CUSTOMER SERVICE

Continue to be technically sound in delivering conservation to our producers

Use technology to increase efficiencies

Expand our conservation partnerships



SOIL HEALTH

Continue to promote and elevate Soil Health activities across Tennessee



Increase program participation of Historically Underserved, Beginning, Veteran and Women Farmers



Train and mentor NRCS employees and partners

Continue to be visible and tell our story